

Call for Papers

"YouTube and the 2008 Election Cycle in the United States"
April 16 & 17, 2009 - Amherst, Massachusetts | <http://youtube08election.crowdvine.com>

A two-day University of Massachusetts Amherst conference jointly hosted by the:

Departments of Political Science, Computer Science, and Communication
Science, Technology, and Society Initiative
Center for Public Policy and Administration
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
National Center for Digital Government

Co-Sponsors:

Journal of Information Technology & Politics
Qualitative Data Analysis Program
Panopto.com

Keynote Speakers

Day 1: Richard Rogers, Professor in New Media & Digital Culture at the University of Amsterdam and Director of govcom.org. Dr. Rogers is a Web epistemologist, an area of study where the main claim is that the Web is a knowledge culture distinct from other media. Rogers concentrates on the research opportunities that would have been improbable or impossible without the Internet. His research involves studying and building info-tools. He studies and makes use of the adjudicative or 'recommender' cultures of the Web that help to determine the reputation of information as well as organizations. The most well-known tool Rogers has developed with his colleagues is the Issue Crawler, a server-side Web crawler, co-link machine and graph visualizer.

Day 2: Noshir Contractor, Northwestern University, the Jane S. & William J. White Professor of Behavioral Sciences in the School of Engineering, School of Communication and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, USA. He is the Director of the Science of Networks in Communities (SONIC) Research Group at Northwestern University. He is investigating factors that lead to the formation, maintenance, and dissolution of dynamically linked social and knowledge networks in communities. Specifically, his research team is developing and testing theories and methods of network science to map, understand and enable more effective networks in a wide variety of contexts including communities of practice in business, science and engineering communities, disaster response teams, public health networks, digital media and learning networks, and in virtual worlds, such as Second Life.

Approach

The Program Committee encourages disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches rooted in political science, media studies, and communication scholarship. The JITP Editor strongly endorses new and experimental approaches involving collaboration with information and computer science scholars. Potential topics might include, but are not limited to:

- citizen initiated campaign videos and candidates' use of YouTube,
- bloggers use of YouTube to influence the primaries or election,
- the impact of YouTube on traditional or new media coverage of the election cycle,
- the effect of YouTube on citizen interest, knowledge, engagement, or voting behavior,
- social network analysis of YouTube and related election-oriented sites,
- political theory or communication theory and YouTube in the context of the 2008 election,
- new metrics that support the study of the "YouTube Effect" on elections,
- archives for saving and tools for mapping the full landscape of YouTube election content,
- use of YouTube in the classroom as a way to teach American electoral politics, or
- reviews of existing scholarship about YouTube.

Paper Submissions

Authors are invited to prepare and submit to JITP a manuscript following one of the six submission formats by **January 7, 2009**. These formats include research papers, policy viewpoints, workbench notes, review essays, book reviews, and papers on teaching innovation. The goal is to produce a special issue, or double issue, of JITP with a variety of approaches to the broad theme of "YouTube and the 2008 Election Cycle in the United States." Everything you need to know about how to prepare and submit a strong JITP paper via the JITP web site is documented at <http://www.jitp.net/>. Papers will be put through an expedited blind peer review process by the Program Committee and authors will be notified about a decision by February 15, 2009. A small number of papers will be accepted for presentation at the conference. Other paper authors will be invited to present a poster during the Friday evening reception. All posters must include a "YouTube" version of their research findings.

Best Paper and Poster Cash Prizes

The author (or authors) of the best research paper will receive a single \$1,000 prize. The creator (or creators) of the best YouTube poster/research presentation will also receive a single prize of \$1,000.

Conference Program Committee

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